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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

Letter dated 28 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, I wish to inform you that the competent authorities of the United States of America refused to grant entry visas to an Iraqi delegation which was planning to participate in a symposium organized by a United Nations body, held in the territory of the United States of America.

Iraq received from the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), through his memorandum TDN 810, dated 7 February 1994, an invitation to participate in the United Nations International Symposium on Trade Efficiency, held in the city of Columbus (Ohio, United States of America) from 17 to 21 October 1994.

On 2 June 1994, the office representing Iraqi interests, at Washington, sent a letter to the State Department of the United States of America requesting that entry visas be issued to the members of the Iraqi delegation, headed by the Minister of Trade of the Republic of Iraq, so that they would be able to participate in the International Symposium.

More than three months later, specifically on 22 September 1994, the State Department informed, by telephone, the office at Washington representing Iraqi interests, that the Iraqi delegation needed to go to the United States Embassy at Amman and fill out the visa request forms there.

On 27 September 1994 the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq at Amman sent the forms requesting entry visas and photocopies of the passports of the members of the delegation to the United States Embassy at Amman. However, it received no response, and the Iraqi delegation was thus prevented from participating in an important United Nations activity.

These acts, which must be added to other practices of the United States authorities, some of which we have already cited in our letters of 11 September 1994 (A/49/377-S/1994/1047) and 23 October 1994 (A/49/569-S/1994/1210), confirm that those authorities are breaching the commitments entered into by the United States of America under the Headquarters Agreement.

In drawing attention to these regrettable incidents, the Government of my country expresses the hope that the obligations incumbent upon the host country under the Headquarters Agreement will be applied in the proper fashion.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 139, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative